

the IG Connection

A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida



May 2020



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER

An Accredited Office
of Inspectors General



FRAUD ALERT

SIGN UP TODAY and receive free alerts when a document with your name is recorded in Official Records. Protect yourself from fraud. **CLICK HERE.**

GET IN TOUCH:

Write:

Public Integrity Unit
Division of Inspector General
Fraud Hotline
510 Bay Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756

Call:

(727) 45FRAUD
(727) 453-7283

Fax:

(727) 464-8386

E-mail:

fraudhotline@mypinellasclerk.org

Internet:

www.mypinellasclerk.org
[www.twitter.com/pinellasig](https://twitter.com/pinellasig)
www.facebook.com/igpinellas

May - International Internal Audit Awareness Month



Started by The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in the 1990s, International Internal Audit Awareness Month helps promote the value of internal audit both inside and outside of organizations. It is celebrated every year in May.

The IIA is a global professional association and standard-setting body for internal auditors worldwide. Established in 1941, the IIA serves as the world's leader in professional certification, education, research, and technical guidance for internal auditors. The IIA is dedicated to providing extensive support and services to its 185,000 members from more than 170 countries and territories, so they can continue to add value across the board.

Who are Internal Auditors?

- Internal auditors are explorers, analysts, problem-solvers, reporters, and trusted advisors. They bring objectivity and a variety of skills and expertise to the organization.
- The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller (Clerk) of Pinellas County, Florida, an elected official, serves as the ex officio County auditor per constitutional and statutory provisions. The Clerk established the Division of Inspector General to, in part, fulfill the audit responsibility.

What is Internal Auditing?

- Internal Auditing is an independent, objective activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations.
- Internal auditing is critical to strong corporate governance, risk management, effective internal control, and efficient operations.
- The audit function of the Division of Inspector General serves as an important check and balance of agencies funded by the Clerk and the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) departments under the County Administrator.

the IG *Connection*

*A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida*



What do Internal Auditors do?

- The Division of Inspector General performs independent, comprehensive audits of County operations and contracts to:
 - Evaluate risks
 - Assess controls
 - Improve operations
 - Review processes & procedures
 - Assure safeguards
 - Provide insight & foresight
 - Communicate results & recommend action

Value in Internal Auditors:

- Find out what's working and what's not
- Keep an eye on organizational culture
- Look at the organization objectively
- Bring organization-wide perspective
- Advocate improvements
- Raise red flags
- Serve as trusted advisor
- The Division of Inspector General provides:
 - Public accountability of the use of tax dollars
 - A mechanism to investigate suspected fraud, waste, and abuse
- The Division of Inspector General serves as:
 - An independent, objective source of information for the BCC and the Clerk
 - A consulting resource for County management to obtain advice on financial issues and procedures
- The Division of Inspector General results in a more transparent government.

Internal Auditors evaluate risks to:

- Help keep bad things from happening
- Help assure good things can happen
- Help management understand:
 - Where the risks are
 - Whether the risks are under control
 - Whether the risks are worth taking

Identifying risks is NOT enough:

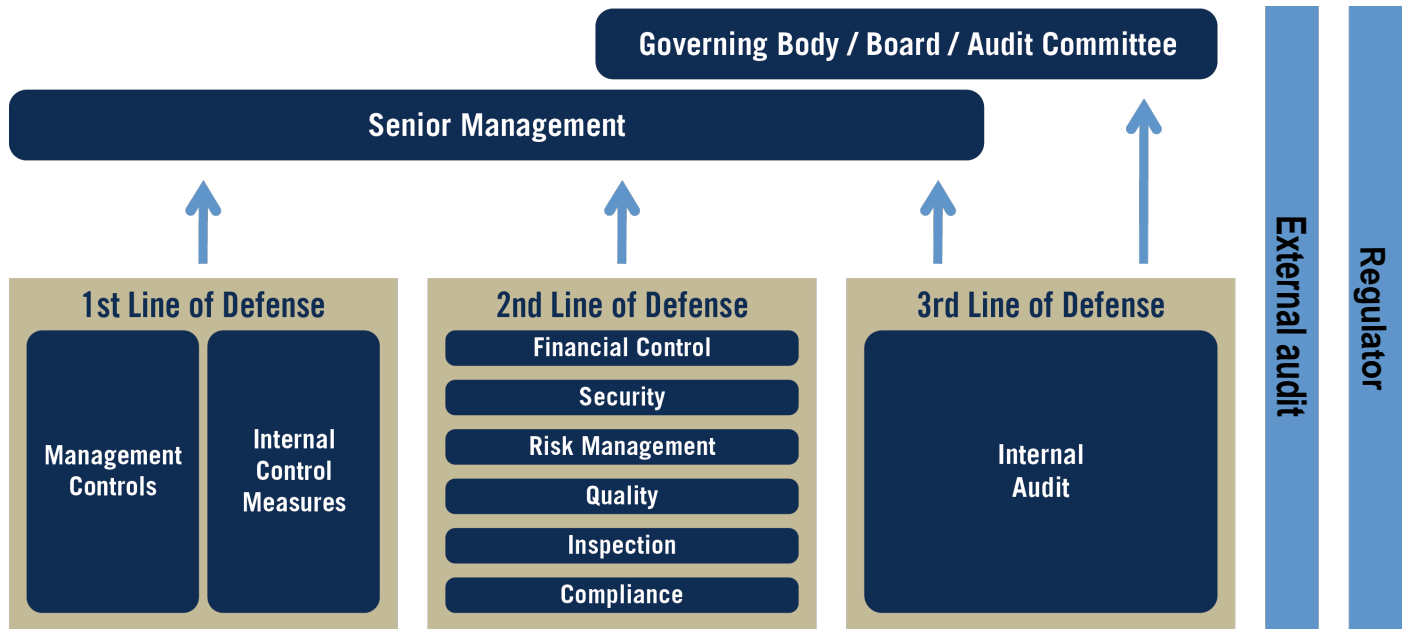
- Internal auditors evaluate the controls that help organizations manage risks by asking:
 - Are the controls in place?
 - Do the controls work?
 - Are additional controls needed?
 - Are there any unnecessary controls?
 - Are the controls cost-effective?

the IG Connection

A newsletter brought to you by the Division of Inspector General
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Pinellas County, Florida



Internal Audit as the third line of defense:



Additional Services Provided By the Division of Inspector General:

- Consulting Services
- Intake of Fraud Complaints
 - County & Guardianship Fraud Hotline: (727) 453-7283
 - Online Fraud Complaints ([Click here to report Fraud, Waste & Abuse](#))
- Investigations
- Guardianship Services
- Training
- PCSO PREA Hotline